



CITY OF LONG BEACH

Press Release

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Contact: Darryl Sexton, MD
City Health Officer
(562) 570 - 4013 phone
(562) 619-3962 cell phone
(562) 570 - 4049 fax

PRECAUTIONS URGED AFTER FIRST HUMAN CASE OF WESTNILE VIRUS IN CALIFORNIA

A 27-year old Kern County man is the first reported human case of West Nile Virus (WNV) in California this year. Although no WNV activity has been documented in the City of Long Beach this season, the virus has been detected in 13 of California's 58 counties, including Los Angeles, Orange, Ventura and San Diego. Heavy rains and the onset of warm weather create an ideal environment for mosquito breeding. Public Health Officials at the City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services (Health Department) are urging residents to protect themselves and their families from the virus by taking the following precautions:

- Avoid mosquito-infested areas especially at dawn and dusk when they are most Active;
- Interrupt the mosquito's life cycle by eliminating standing water on your property. Dump or drain standing water in neglected ponds, birdbaths, fountains, buckets, old tires or anything that can hold water;
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants whenever you are outdoors;
- Use mosquito repellant with containing DEET, Picaridin, or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus. Residents should follow instructions on the label. Consult with your child's pediatrician for appropriate concentrations of DEET to be used on children under the age of two;
- Keep tight-fitting screens on doors and windows to prevent mosquitoes from entering homes and check to make sure your window screens are in good condition;
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools; drain water from pool covers;
- Limit the watering of lawns and outdoor plants to twice a week to avoid run off to gutters and around sprinklers;
- For further information or to report dead birds to the California Department of Health Services by calling 1-877-WNV-Bird or online at www.westnile.ca.gov.

For further information, contact the Health Department's, Vector Control Program at (562) 570-4132 or online at www.longbeach.gov/health, or at the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile.

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